



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

SC  
# 6A  
31024

Appl. No. : 09/879,981 Confirmation No. 5066  
Applicant : Robert C. Covington, Jr., et al.  
Filed : June 14, 2001  
Group Art Unit : 2171  
Examiner : Marcin R. Filipczyk

Docket No. : 11421/5  
Customer No. : 23838

**RECEIVED**

MAR 05 2004

Technology Center 2100

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE  
AND PETITION FOR 3-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are responsive to the Office Action (Paper No. 5) dated September 4, 2003, the three month shortened statutory period during which to respond thereto expiring on December 4, 2004, having been extended herein to March 4, 2004, by payment of the requisite Small Entity fee of \$475.00 for a Three-Month Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.